EPIC COMICS

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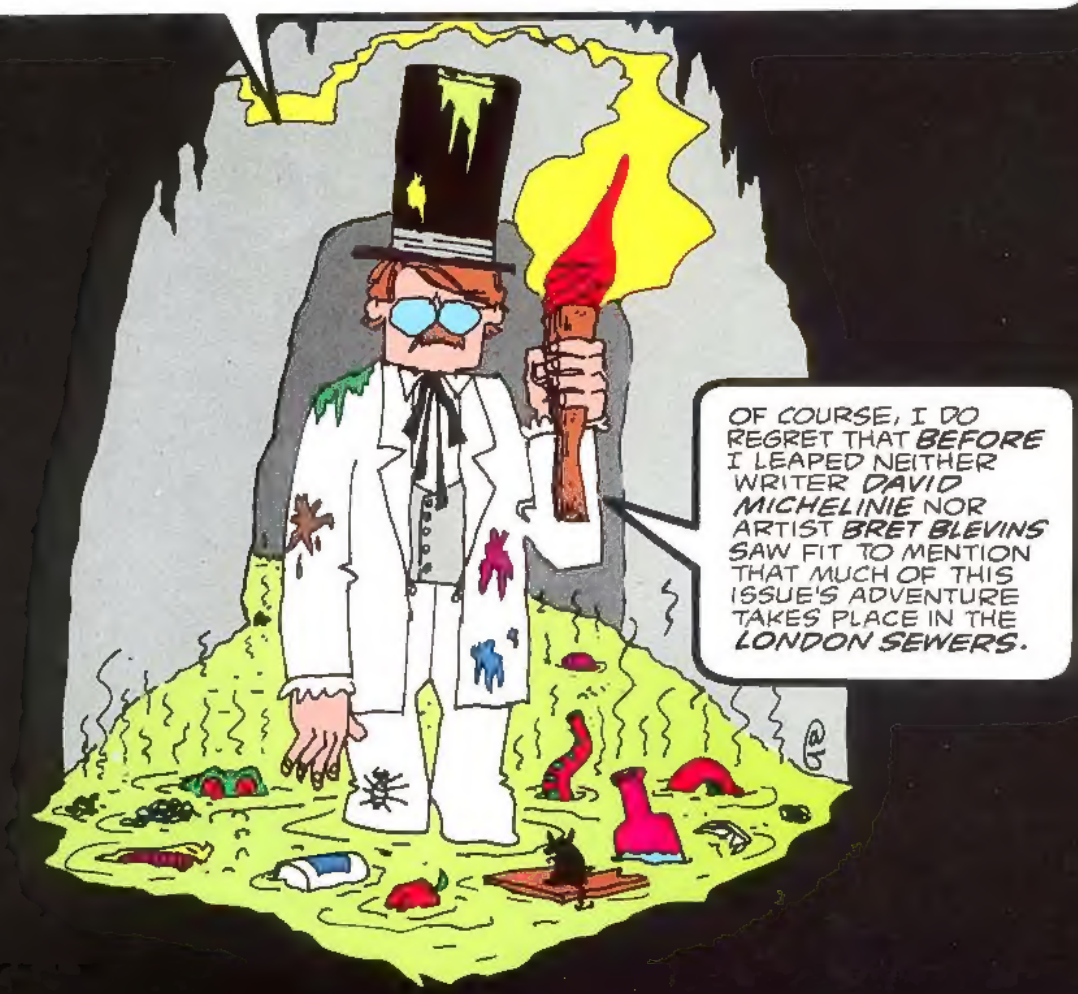
HELLO. THIS IS ***ARCHIE GOODWIN***, EDITOR OF MARVEL'S ***EPIC COMICS*** LINE, WELCOMING YOU TO ANOTHER ISSUE OF ***THE BOZZ CHRONICLES***. NORMALLY, I AM NOT ALWAYS ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT DOING THESE EDITORIALS. FRANKLY, THEY OFTEN REQUIRE THAT I APPEAR IN RIDICULOUS AND HUMILIATING COSTUMES FOR THE SAKE OF TYING IN WITH THE ISSUE'S PLOT OR TO PLUG ***OTHER*** EPIC BOOKS--SUCH AS OUR ON-GOING FANTASY ADVENTURE, ***SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS***, OR OUR CURRENT LIMITED SERIES, ***SIX FROM SIRIUS II***. HOWEVER, ***BOZZ***, WITH ITS URBANE AND ELEGANT VICTORIAN AGE BACKGROUND, OFFERS RARE RELIEF. I HAVE ALWAYS ADMIRED THAT PARTICULAR ERA AND FOUND THAT THE DASHING MEN'S FASHIONS OF THOSE TIMES NOT ONLY APPEALED TO THE DANDY IN ME BUT ALSO ACTED AS A METAPHOR FOR THE RAKISH, ARISTOCRATIC FLAIR I BRING TO MY ROLE AS ONE OF TODAY'S BIG-TIME COMIC BOOK GUIDING LIGHTS. SO, NEEDLESS TO SAY, I ***LEAPED*** WITHOUT QUESTION INTO THE EDITORIAL ROLE PROVIDED BY THIS ISSUE'S ***BOZZ*** ADVENTURE!


OF COURSE, I DO REGRET THAT BEFORE I LEAPED NEITHER WRITER DAVID MICHELINIE NOR ARTIST BRET BLEVINS SAW FIT TO MENTION THAT MUCH OF THIS ISSUE'S ADVENTURE TAKES PLACE IN THE LONDON SEWERS.

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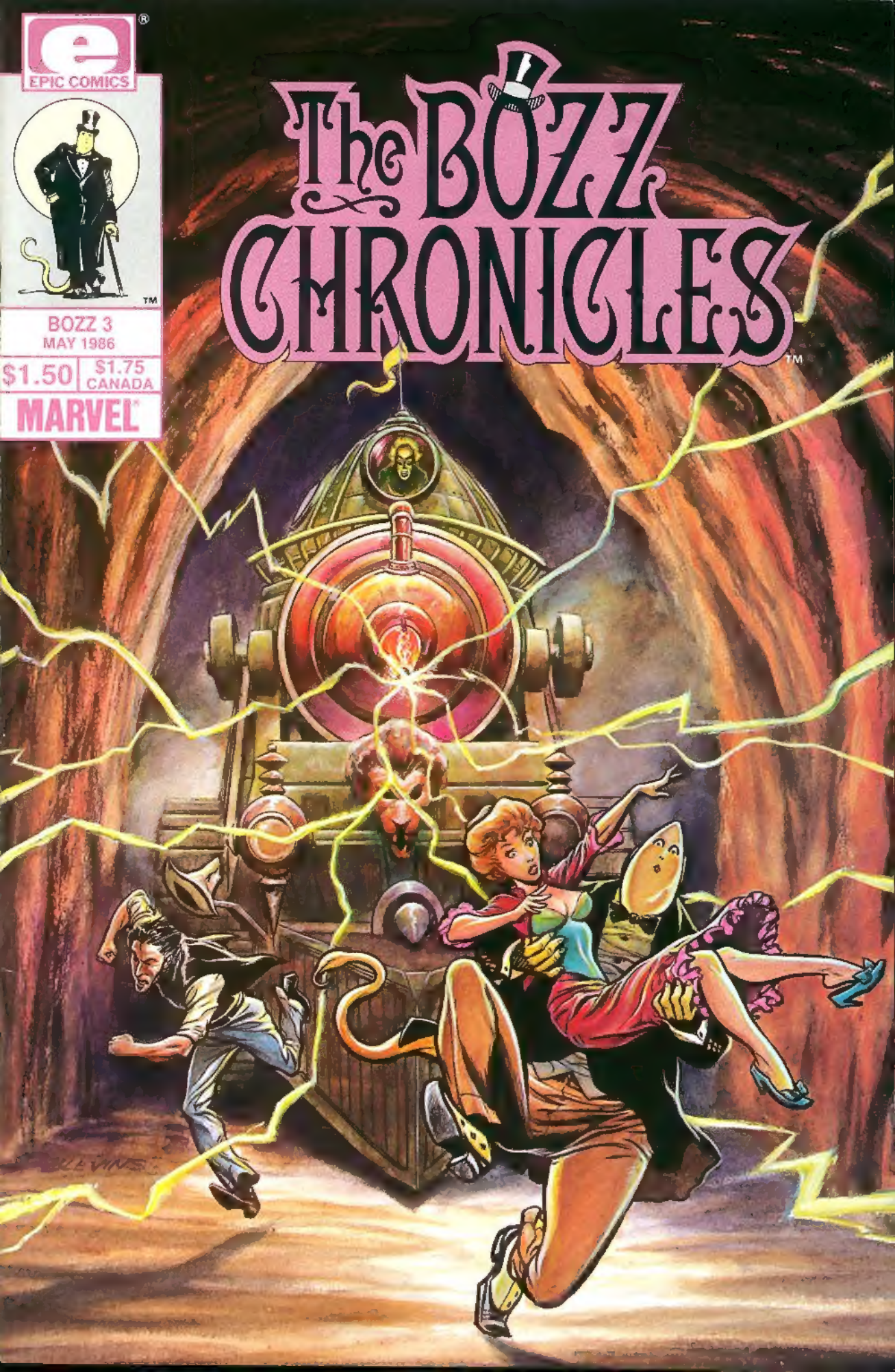
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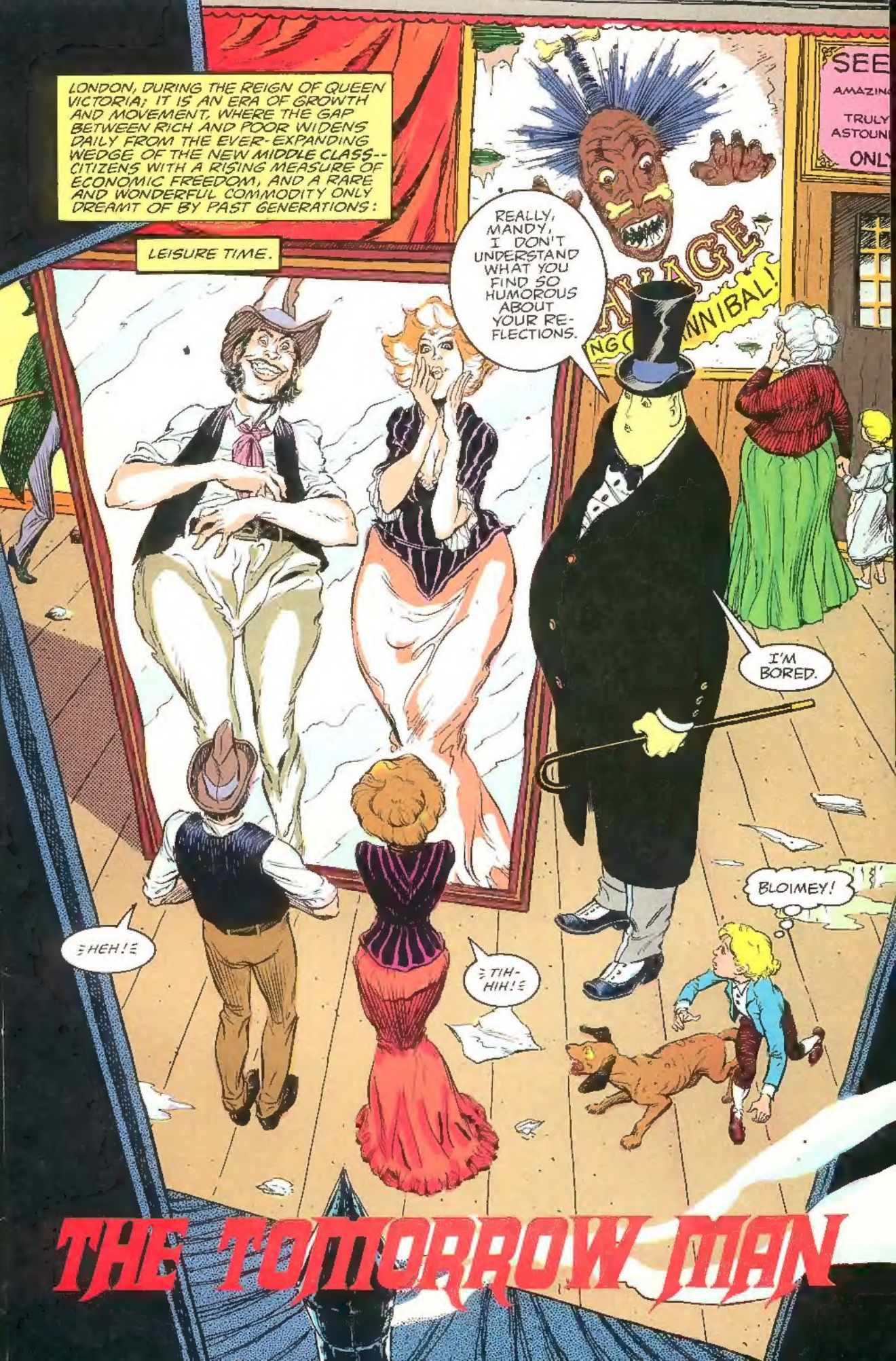
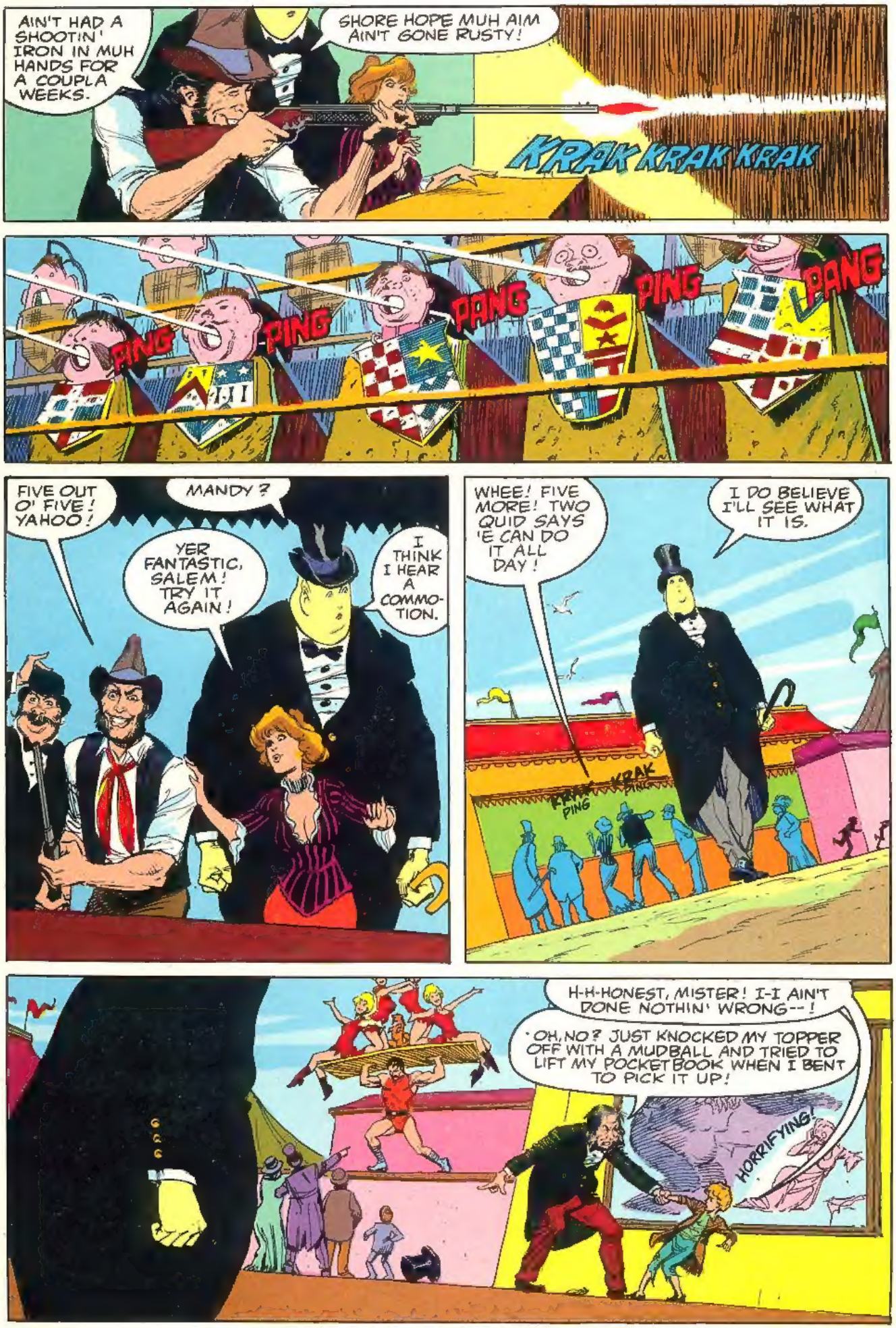

LONDON, DURING THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA; IT IS AN ERA OF GROWTH AND MOVEMENT, WHERE THE GAP BETWEEN RICH AND POOR WIDENS DAILY FROM THE EVER-EXPANDING WEDGE OF THE NEW MIDDLE CLASS--CITIZENS WITH A RISING MEASURE OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM, AND A RARE AND WONDERFUL COMMODITY ONLY DREAMT OF BY PAST GENERATIONS:
LEISURE TIME.
REALLY, MANDY, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU FIND SO HUMOROUS ABOUT YOUR REFLECTIONS.
I'M BORED.
BLOIMEY!
HEH!
TIH-HIH!
THE TOMORROW MAN

GOR, BOZZY, EASE IT UP A BIT, EH?
BULLA-BULLA BULLA!
WE CAN'T BE CONSULTIN' DETECTIVES ALL THE TIME!
I MEAN, I KNOW WE AIN'T 'AD A CASE SINCE THAT 'ARRY TOWNES BLOKE AN' 'IS PET DEVILS, BUT THAT'S WHY ME AN' SALEM BRUNG YA TA THIS 'ERE CARNIVAL!
PRESTO!
HECKFIRE, BOZZ, THE L'IL LADY'S RIGHT!
GASP!
THE "BOSWELL AN' FLYNN" AGENCY'S GOIN' GREAT GUNS-- DOIN' GOOD ENOUGH TA HIRE ME AS A FULL-TIME HAND!
AN' EVER SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN TAKES A DAY OFF ONCE IN A WHILE!
BLAST! 'E AIN'T BUYIN' IT! 'E'S GOT THAT LOOK IN 'IS EYES AGAIN!
IF WE DON'T FIND SOME-THIN' TA CLUE 'IM UP SOON...
HOT DANG! A SHOOTIN' GALLERY!
ONE FARTHING, SAR.
HERE YUH GO, COMPADRE!
C'MON, BOZZY! THIS'LL BE EXCITIN'!


AIN'T HAD A SHOOTIN' IRON IN MUH HANDS FOR A COUPLA WEEKS.
SHORE HOPE MUH AIM AIN'T GONE RUSTY!
KRAK KRAK KRAK
PING
PING
PANG
PING
PANG
FIVE OUT O' FIVE! YAHOO!
MANDY?
YER FANTASTIC, SALEM! TRY IT AGAIN!
I THINK I HEAR A COMMO-TION.
WHEE! FIVE MORE! TWO QUID SAYS 'E CAN DO IT ALL DAY!
I DO BELIEVE I'LL SEE WHAT IT IS.
KRAK
PING
H-H-HONEST, MISTER! I-I AIN'T DONE NOTHIN' WRONG--!
OH, NO? JUST KNOCKED MY TOPPER OFF WITH A MUDBALL AND TRIED TO LIFT MY POCKETBOOK WHEN I BENT TO PICK IT UP!
HORRIFYING!

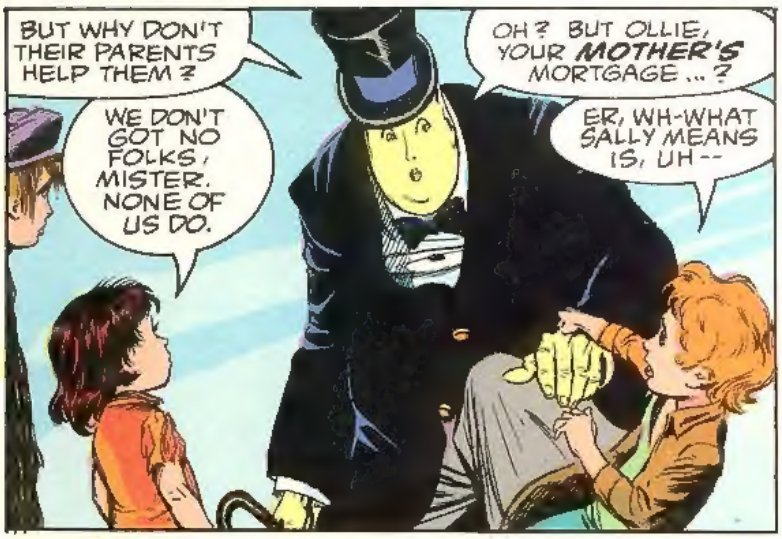
I DON'T THINK I'LL EVEN WAIT FOR A CONSTABLE!
I'LL PUNISH YOU MYSELF, YOU LITTLE WHELP! YOU CUR! YOU --
WOOF! WOOF!
EH?
I SAID, "WOOF! WOOF!"
I KNOW THAT, BLAST IT! BUT WHY?!
WELL, YOU DID REFER TO THE LAD AS A CANINE --
--AN UNUSUAL CASE OF GENETIC MUTATION, NO DOUBT--AND I WAS MERELY ATTEMPTING TO COMMUNICATE IN HIS NATIVE TONGUE.
WHA--JUST WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU?
I'M --
ME POP! YEAH, TH-THAT'S IT! HE'S ME POP!
GRACIOUS! THE MAN'S A GIANT! A-AND THAT PALLOR TO HIS SKIN-- COULD BE DISEASED!
WELL, UM, =HRUMPH!= I'LL BE KIND-HEARTED THIS TIME BUT, ER, DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
I'M AFRAID YOU'VE MADE A MISTAKE, BOY. OUR ANATOMICAL DISSIMILARITIES MAKE IT RATHER DOUBTFUL THAT I'M YOUR PROGENITOR.
HUH? OH, UH, THAT WAS JUST A STORY I MADE UP TO GET AWAY FROM THAT, AH, EVIL SORCERER!
OH. VERY WELL, THEN.

HE... BELIEVED ME? MUST BE SOME KINDA OF FOREIGNER! YEAH, THE ACCENT CLINCHES IT!
OLLIE, ME BOY, YA'VE JUST FOUND Y'SELF AN EASY MARK!
I--I WAS JUST TRYIN' TA GET ME OWN MONEY BACK, SIR! THAT NARSTY SORCERER STOLE IT!
AND I COULDN'T GO TO THE BOBBIES BECAUSE, UM, HE HOLDS THE MORTGAGE ON ME MUM'S HOUSE! YEAH!. A-AN HE'D FORECLOSE FER SURE IF I CAUSED ANY TROUBLE!
WILL YA HELP ME, SIR?
PLEASE?
WHY, CERTAINLY.
IS THAT SASH OF YOURS ORGANIC IN NATURE?
ME BELT? IT'S KINDA PATCHED UP, BUT IT IS LEATHER, IF THAT'S WOT YA MEAN.
GOOD. IT SHOULD SERVE QUITE SUITABLY.
NNNNNN
WWWWW

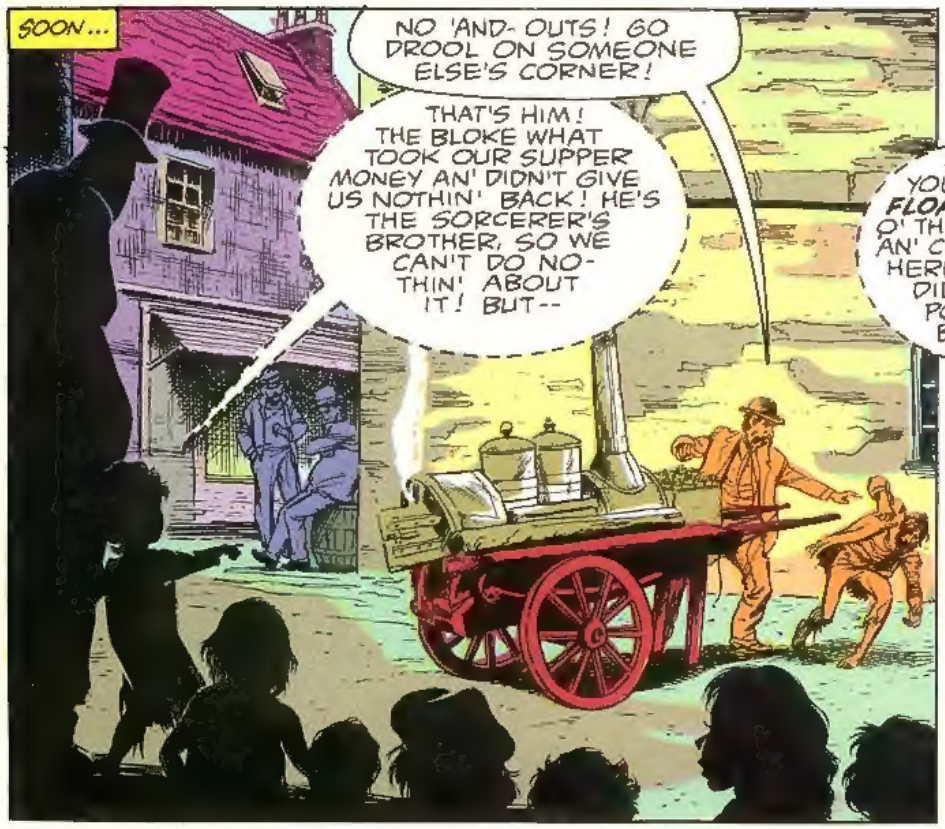
LIKE SO.
CRIMINY! H-HOW'D YA DO THAT?
IT'S QUITE SIMPLE. FIRST, YOU ESTABLISH MOLECULAR COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN TWO ORGANIC SUBSTANCES. THEN, BY MANIPULATING ELECTRONS IN THE MAGNETIC SPECTRUM--
666
C'MON! NEVER MIND! I GOT ME SOME FRIENDS YA CAN HELP TOO!
ACTUALLY, I'M HERE WITH COMPANIONS MYSELF. PERHAPS I SHOULDN'T...
OH, DON'T FRET THAT, SIR! I'LL HAVE ME, UH, GOAT COME BACK AN' TELL 'EM WHERE YA ARE!
NG GALLERY
HOW KIND. THEIR NAMES ARE AMANDA FLYNN AND SALEM HAWKSHAW. THEY LIVE IN MARACOT ROAD.
GOOD AS DONE, SIR!
BLIMEY, THIS BLOKE'LL BELIEVE ANY-THIN'!
BEST SCORE I EVER SEE'D, SAR. YE WIN TOP PRIZE!
AWWW, AIN'T SHE CUTE?
WE'RE RIGHT PROUD O' YA, SALEM! AIN'T WE, BOZZY? BOZZ...?
OH, LORD! 'E-'E'S GONE!
C'MON! WE GOTTA FIND 'IM 'FORE IT'S TOO LATE!

SHOOT, MANDY, YUH AIN'T GONNA PULL MUH LEG AGAIN, ARE YUH? FEED ME THAT STORY 'BOUT BOZZ BEIN' FROM ANOTHER PLANET, AN' HOW HE'S SO BORED WITH THIS BACKWARD PLACE THAT THE ONLY THING KEEPIN' HIM FROM BLOWIN' HIS BRAINS OUT IS SOLVIN' MYSTERIES?
HECK, I HEARD BETTER ONES THAN THAT AROUND CAMP FIRES!
F'RINSTANCE, THERE WAS THESE TWO PINKERTON GUYS, AN'--
STUFF IT!
BELIEVE WOT YA LIKE, BUT I'M TELLIN' YA THAT IF WE DON'T GET TA BOZZY 'FORE 'IS MELANCHOLY DOES--
--WE'LL BOTH BE OUT OF A JOB!
PORT FAIRGROU
AND... A FRIEND.
GOSH, I...I-I'M SORRY, AMANDA.
NEVER MIND. LET'S LOOK DOWN 'ERE.
SAINTS AFIRE! 'E'S A BIG 'UN!

W-WHO IS HE, OLLIE?
HE'S A FRIEND, GEOF. HIS NAME'S BOZZ.
THESE HERE ARE ME MATES, SIR-- THE ONES I WAS HOPIN' YA MIGHT HELP!


BUT WHY DON'T THEIR PARENTS HELP THEM?
WE DON'T GOT NO FOLKS, MISTER. NONE OF US DO.
OH? BUT OLLIE, YOUR MOTHER'S MORTGAGE...?
ER, WH-WHAT SALLY MEANS IS, UH--

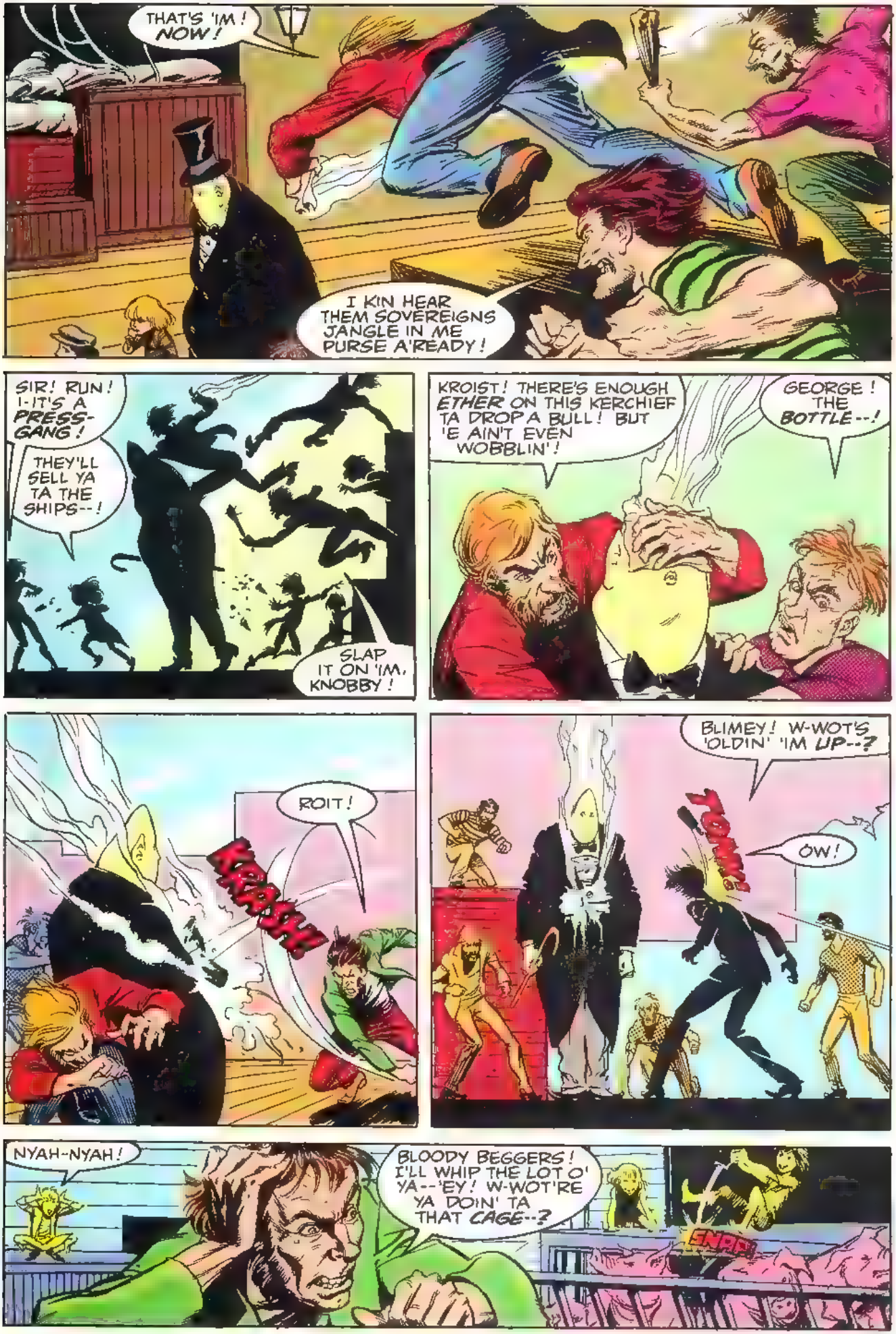
--WE MIGHT AS WELL NOT HAVE PARENTS! YEAH! SINCE THEY'RE AWAY ALL THE TIME TRYIN' TA EARN A CRUST O' BREAD! AND, UH, SPEAKIN' O' FOOD...

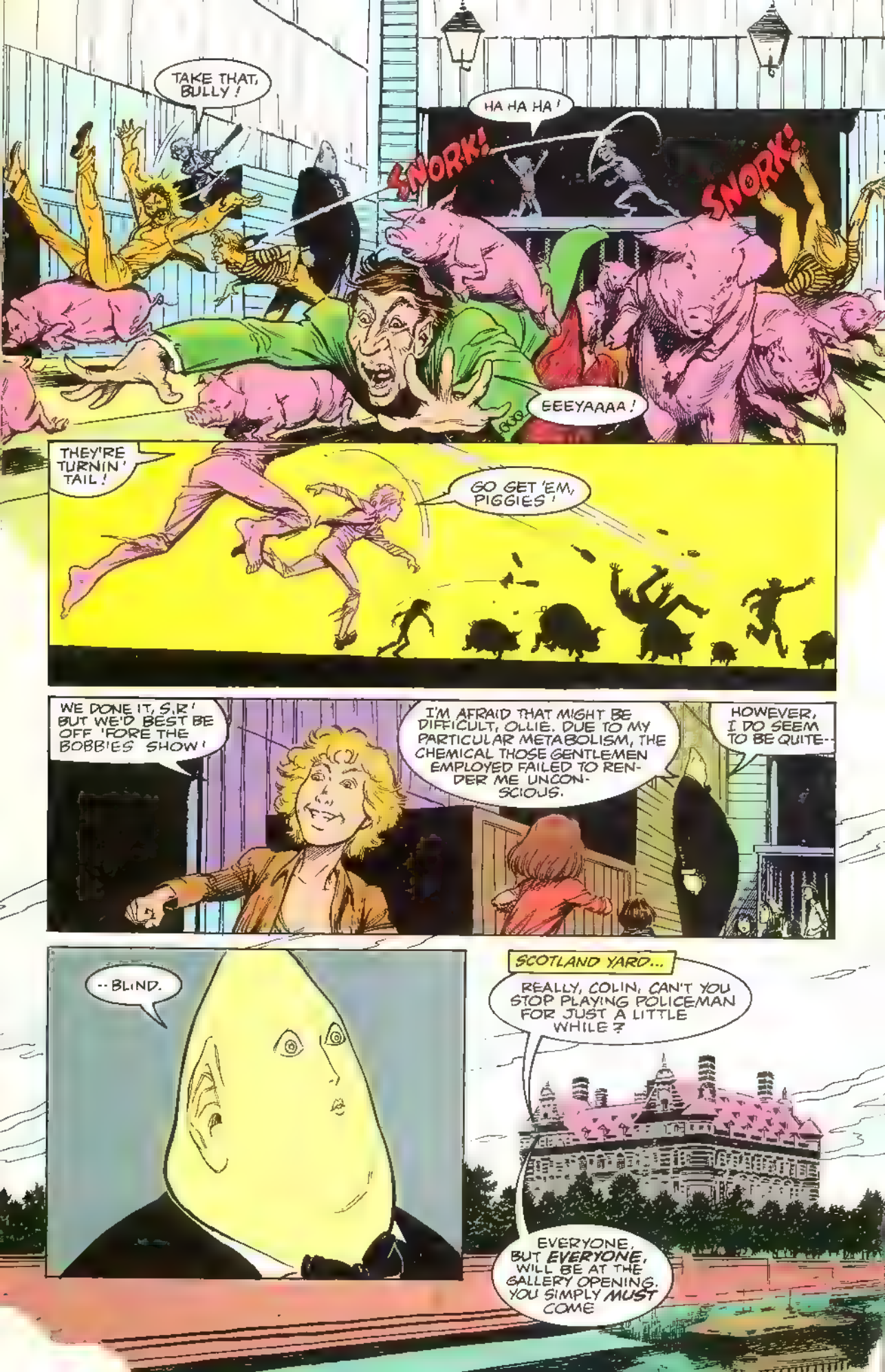

SOON...
NO 'AND-OUTS! GO DROOL ON SOMEONE ELSE'S CORNER!
THAT'S HIM! THE BLOKE WHAT TOOK OUR SUPPER MONEY AN' DIDN'T GIVE US NOTHIN' BACK! HE'S THE SORCERER'S BROTHER, SO WE CAN'T DO NOTHIN' ABOUT IT! BUT--

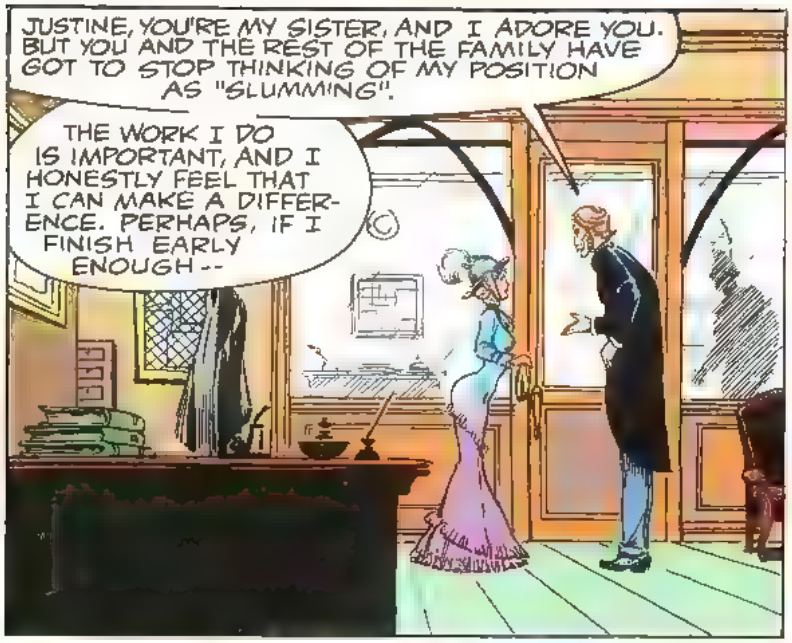
--IF YOU WAS TA FLOAT SOME O' THEM FISH AN' CHIPS OVER HERE, LIKE YA DID THAT POCKET-BOOK...?
MASTER OLLIE--

--I BELIEVE I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT.
WHA - WA.T ! C-C-COME BACK--!
SIR, YOU ARE A CAD AND A BOUNDER. YOU WILL GIVE ME FOOD FOR THE CHILDREN IMMEDIATELY, OR I SHALL BE FORCED TO DO SOMETHING UNPLEASANT.
WOT ARE YA, BARMY? YA GIVES ME THE LOOT, I GIVES YA LUNCH OTHERWISE--
SHOVE OFF!
I'M AFRAID YOU LEAVE ME NO ALTERNATIVE.
?!?
GEEOD! L-LOOKIT THAT --
H-HELP! POLICE!
W-W-WITCH-CRAFT!
YAAAAAAY!
GO GET THE BOYS, TURPIN! CAP'N JACK'LL PAY 'ANDSOME FER A BLOKE THAT STRONG!
MEANWHILE, SEVERAL SAD BLOCKS TO THE NORTH..
IT AIN T NO USE E'S NOWHERE TA BE FOUND
WE GOT NO CHOICE. WE'LL AVE TA GO -
- TO THE POL CE!
LORDY! THAT IS EXTREME!

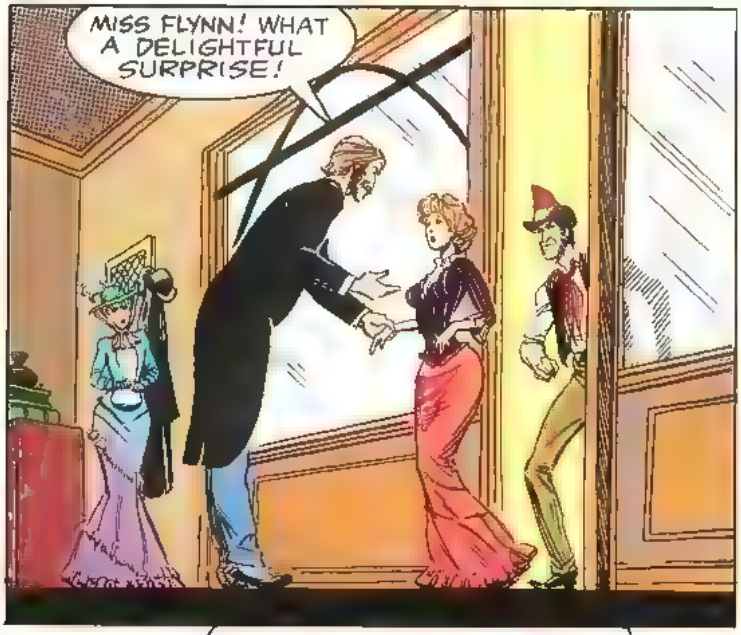
WHILE NEARER THAN THE TWO SEARCHERS WOULD EVER SUSPECT, ALONG THE DOCKS OF THE MIGHTY THAMES. .
I GOT A QUESTION FOR YA, SIR DO YA ALWAYS I MEAN ALWAYS, BELIEVE WOT PEOPLE TELLS YA ?
ACTUALLY, OLLIE, YES I DO.
SO IF I WAS TA SAY I'M THE KING O FRANCE, YA'D START CALLIN' ME "YER MAJESTY" ?
WELL, I FIND IT RATHER UNLIKELY THAT SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD ARISE, OLLIE, BUT IF THEY DID... I SUPPOSE I WOULD.
AH, G'WAN ! AIN'T YA NEVER HEARD O' LIES ?
YES. I FIND THE CONCEPT SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT TO GRASP, BUT I'M WORKING ON IT. YOU SEE -
--WHERE I COME FROM, PEOPLE ALWAYS TELL THE TRUTH
THEY...THEY DO ?
MISTER.. IF... IF YA EVER GO BACK... WHERE YA COME FROM...
TAKE ME ?


THAT'S 'IM! NOW!
I KIN HEAR THEM SOVEREIGNS JANGLE IN ME PURSE A'READY!
SIR! RUN! I-IT'S A PRESS-GANG!
THEY'LL SELL YA TA THE SHIPS--!
SLAP IT ON 'IM, KNOBBY!
KROIST! THERE'S ENOUGH ETHER ON THIS KERCHIEF TA DROP A BULL! BUT 'E AIN'T EVEN WOBBLIN'!
GEORGE! THE BOTTLE--!
ROIT!
KRASH!
BLIMEY! W-WOT'S 'OLDIN' 'IM UP--?
TONK!
OW!
NYAH-NYAH!
BLOODY BEGGERS! I'LL WHIP THE LOT O' YA--'EY! W-WOT'RE YA DOIN' TA THAT CAGE--?
SNAP!


TAKE THAT, BULLY!
HA HA HA!
SNORK!
SNORK!
EEEYAAAA!
THEY'RE TURNIN' TAIL!
GO GET 'EM, PIGGIES!
WE DONE IT, S,R! BUT WE'D BEST BE OFF 'FORE THE BOBBIES SHOW!
I'M AFRAID THAT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT, OLLIE. DUE TO MY PARTICULAR METABOLISM, THE CHEMICAL THOSE GENTLEMEN EMPLOYED FAILED TO RENDER ME UNCONSCIOUS.
HOWEVER, I DO SEEM TO BE QUITE--
--BLIND.
SCOTLAND YARD...
REALLY, COLIN, CAN'T YOU STOP PLAYING POLICEMAN FOR JUST A LITTLE WHILE?
EVERYONE, BUT EVERYONE, WILL BE AT THE GALLERY OPENING. YOU SIMPLY MUST COME


JUSTINE, YOU'RE MY SISTER, AND I ADORE YOU. BUT YOU AND THE REST OF THE FAMILY HAVE GOT TO STOP THINKING OF MY POSITION AS "SLUMMING".
THE WORK I DO IS IMPORTANT, AND I HONESTLY FEEL THAT I CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. PERHAPS, IF I FINISH EARLY ENOUGH --

INSPECTOR FITZROY? SORRY TO INTERRUPT, SIR, BUT THERE'S A LADY HERE WHO INSISTS ON SEEIN' YA.


MISS FLYNN! WHAT A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE!

WHY, THAT FOUR-BIT STUCK-UP DON JUAN! TWO KIN PLAY AT THIS GAME!

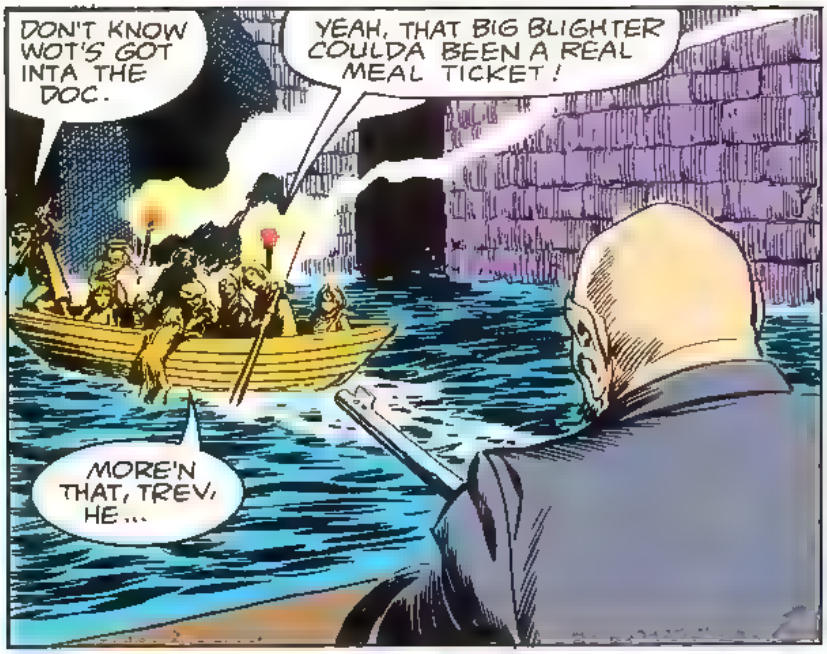
HOWDY, MA'AM! I'M SALEM HAWKSHAW!
BUT YOU KIN CALL ME "DARLIN'"!
:SLURRRRP!:

LEAVING SO SOON, JUSTINE?
I'M
GOING
HOME
TO
WASH.

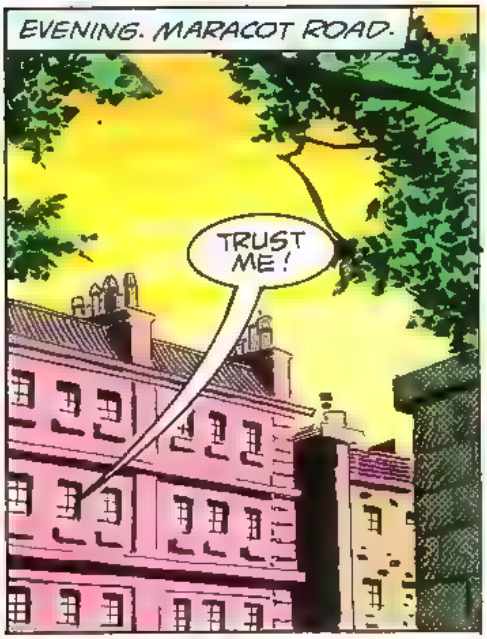
NOW, MISS FLYNN, HOW MIGHT I BE OF SERVICE?
IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSIN', INSPECTOR, BUT, UM, I SEEM TA'VE MIS-PLACED ME PARTNER!
THAT BOSWELL CHAP? HMM, I WAS JUST THINKING OF HIM. I'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING A BAFFLING MURDER CASE--BODIES KEEP WASHING UP ALONG THE THAMES, DRAPED IN ODD CLOTHING AND CARRYING THE MOST UNUSUAL ARTIFACTS.
TIMEPIECES THAT REQUIRE NO WINDING, FOR INSTANCE, AND HAVE LIGHTED NUMBERS. AND LOOK AT THIS--
--TWO PIECES OF CLOTH THAT STICK TOGETHER WITHOUT FASTENERS, HELD ONLY BY TINY HOOKS MADE OF SOME SORT OF HARD RUBBER!
SINCE MR. BOSWELL HAS GAINED QUITE A REPUTATION FOR SOLVING UNUSUAL CASES, I THOUGHT HE MIGHT HAVE SOME INTEREST..
'E WOULD--
--IF WE KNEW WHERE TA FIND 'IM!
FORGIVE MY SELFISHNESS, DEAR LADY. THE YARD WILL NATURALLY DO EVERYTHING IT CAN. SHALL WE DISCUSS PARTICULARS OVER DINNER?
AT THE RITZ, OF COURSE.
THE... THE RITZ?
A SMALL FAMILY HOLDING...
WHOA, PARDNER, I DO THE COOKIN' FOR THIS HERE OUTFIT!
AN' MY CHOW'S AS GOOD AS WHAT ANY FANCY-PANTS SALOON KIN DISH OUT! AIN'T IT, MANDY?

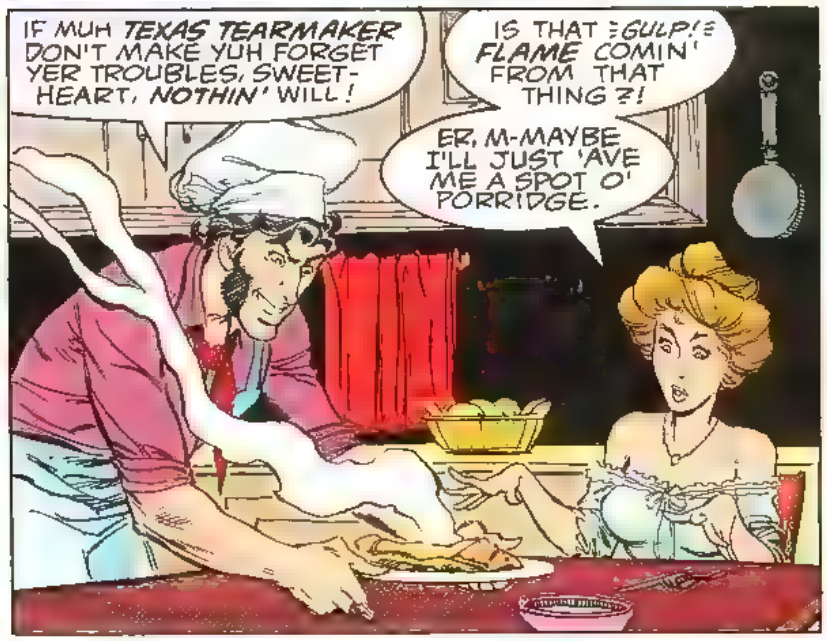
UHHH, RIGHT
IF YA GOTS A CAST IRON STOMACH AN' KEEP A FIRE 'OSE NEARBY!
=SIGH=
THE BOAT'S OVER HERE, SIR MIND YER HEAD.
WOT A STENCH!
WHOOP! B-B-BEST YA SIT IN THE CENTER, GUV!
YEAH! A-AN' QUICK!
AREN'T THESE TUNNELS NORMALLY USED FOR THE DISPOSAL OF BODILY WASTES, OLLIE?
THAT'S RIGHT, SIR THEY'RE KINDA MESSY, BUT THEY'RE REAL PRIVATE, TOO. THAT'S WHY DOCTOR PAINE SET UP DOWN HERE!
THE DOC STUDIES STUFF WOT THE REST O' THE SCIENTIFIC BLOKES CALLS UNNATURAL. SO HE BUILT HIS ESTATE DOWN HERE SO THE BOBBIES WOULDN'T COME SNIFFIN' ABOUT
GOR, WOULD YOU? =PHEW!=
HE FINANCES H.S WORK BY PATCHIN' UP CROOKS FER BIG FEES AN' NO QUESTIONS. WE'VE BROUGHT HIM PAYIN' CUSTOMERS IN THE PAST, SO WE'RE HOPIN' HE'LL DO YOU FER FREE!

THAT'S HIS PLACE THERE, BEHIND THAT BIG WALL. BUT --
I DON'T REMEMBER HIM HAVIN' ARMED GUARDS 'AFORE!
POLE THAT SCOW BACK WHERE YA CAME FROM, YA LITTLE MAGGOTS!
IF'N YA KNOW WOT'S GOOD FER YA!
PARDON ME, SIR, BUT ALL WE REQUIRE IS SOME DILITHIUM ETHEL BROMIDE SUSPENDED IN A 2% SALINE SOLUTION
ALL YA'LL GET IS LEAD SUSPENDED IN YER BRAIN IF YA DON'T --
IT'S ALL RIGHT, POMEROY.
THE FELLOW IS OBVIOUSLY A GENTLEMAN OF REFINEMENT. AND SCHOLARS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE.
HOW DO YOU DO. I'M DR. ALFRED PAINE.
ALLOW ME TO ESCORT YOU TO THE MAIN COMPOUND.
WHAT A PITY YOUR YOUNG FRIENDS CAN'T JOIN US.
OONT!
MY, BUT YOU'RE A LARGE FELLOW, AREN'T YOU? GLANDS...?


DON'T KNOW WOT'S GOT INTA THE DOC.
YEAH, THAT BIG BLIGHTER COULDA BEEN A REAL MEAL TICKET!
MORE'N THAT, TREV, HE...

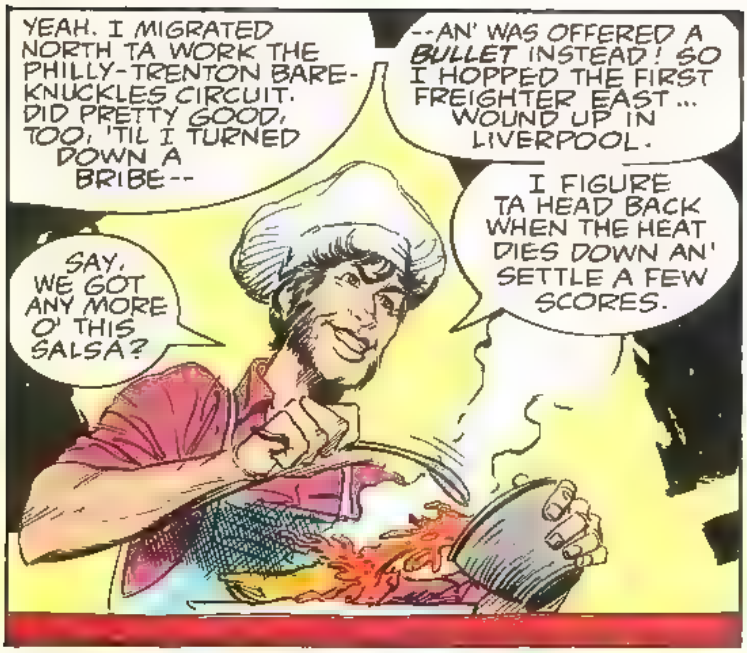
...TRUSTED US


EVENING. MARACOT ROAD.
TRUST ME!

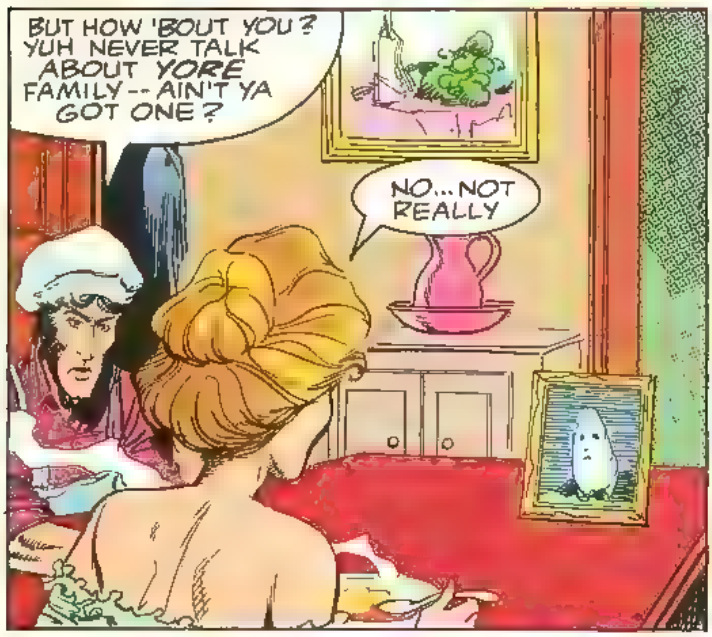

IF MUH TEXAS TEARMAKER DON'T MAKE YUH FORGET YER TROUBLES, SWEETHEART, NOTHIN' WILL!
IS THAT =GULP!= FLAME COMIN' FROM THAT THING?!
ER, M-MAYBE I'LL JUST 'AVE ME A SPOT O' PORRIDGE.

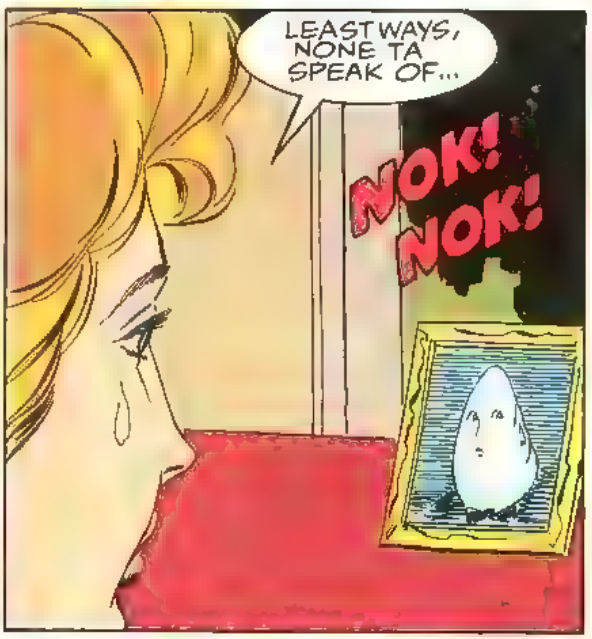
TELL ME, SALEM, DO ALL YANKS EAT LIKE THAT?
ONLY THE CLASSY ONES! I GOT MUH COOK TRAININ' IN PECOS COUNTY, WORKIN' A CHUCK WAGON BACK WHEN I USETA PUNCH CATTLE.

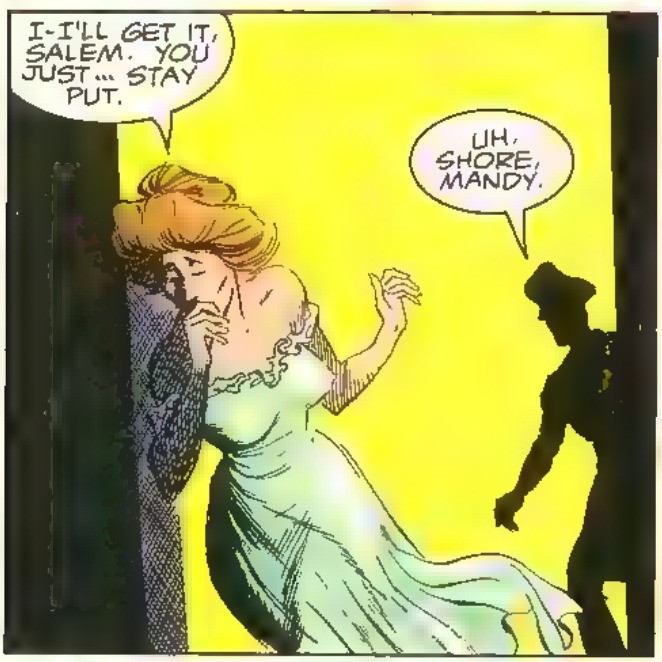
THAT WAS 'FORE I LEARNED I COULD MAKE MORE MONEY PUNCHIN' PEOPLE!
WOT--?!


YEAH. I MIGRATED NORTH TA WORK THE PHILLY-TRENTON BARE-KNUCKLES CIRCUIT. DID PRETTY GOOD, TOO, 'TIL I TURNED DOWN A BRIBE--
--AN' WAS OFFERED A BULLET INSTEAD! SO I HOPPED THE FIRST FREIGHTER EAST... WOUND UP IN LIVERPOOL.
I FIGURE TA HEAD BACK WHEN THE HEAT DIES DOWN AN' SETTLE A FEW SCORES.
SAY, WE GOT ANY MORE O' THIS SALSA?

BUT YER SO FAR FROM OME. DON'T YA MISS YER MATES AN' YER FOLKS?
SHORE! BUT THAT'LL JUST MAKE MUH HOMECOMIN' THAT MUCH SWEETER.

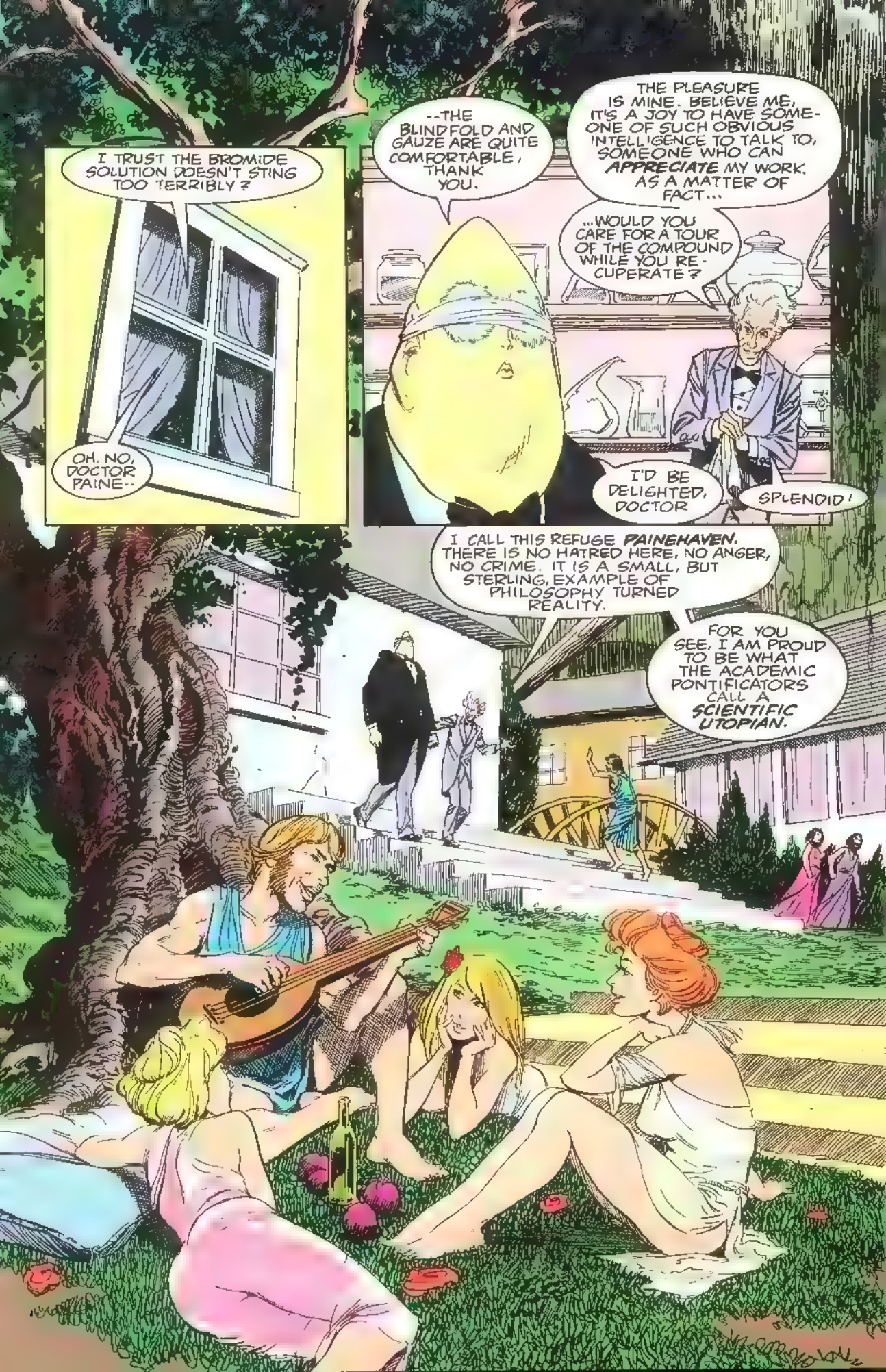

BUT HOW 'BOUT YOU? YUH NEVER TALK ABOUT YORE FAMILY--AIN'T YA GOT ONE?
NO...NOT REALLY


LEASTWAYS, NONE TA SPEAK OF...
NOK! NOK!

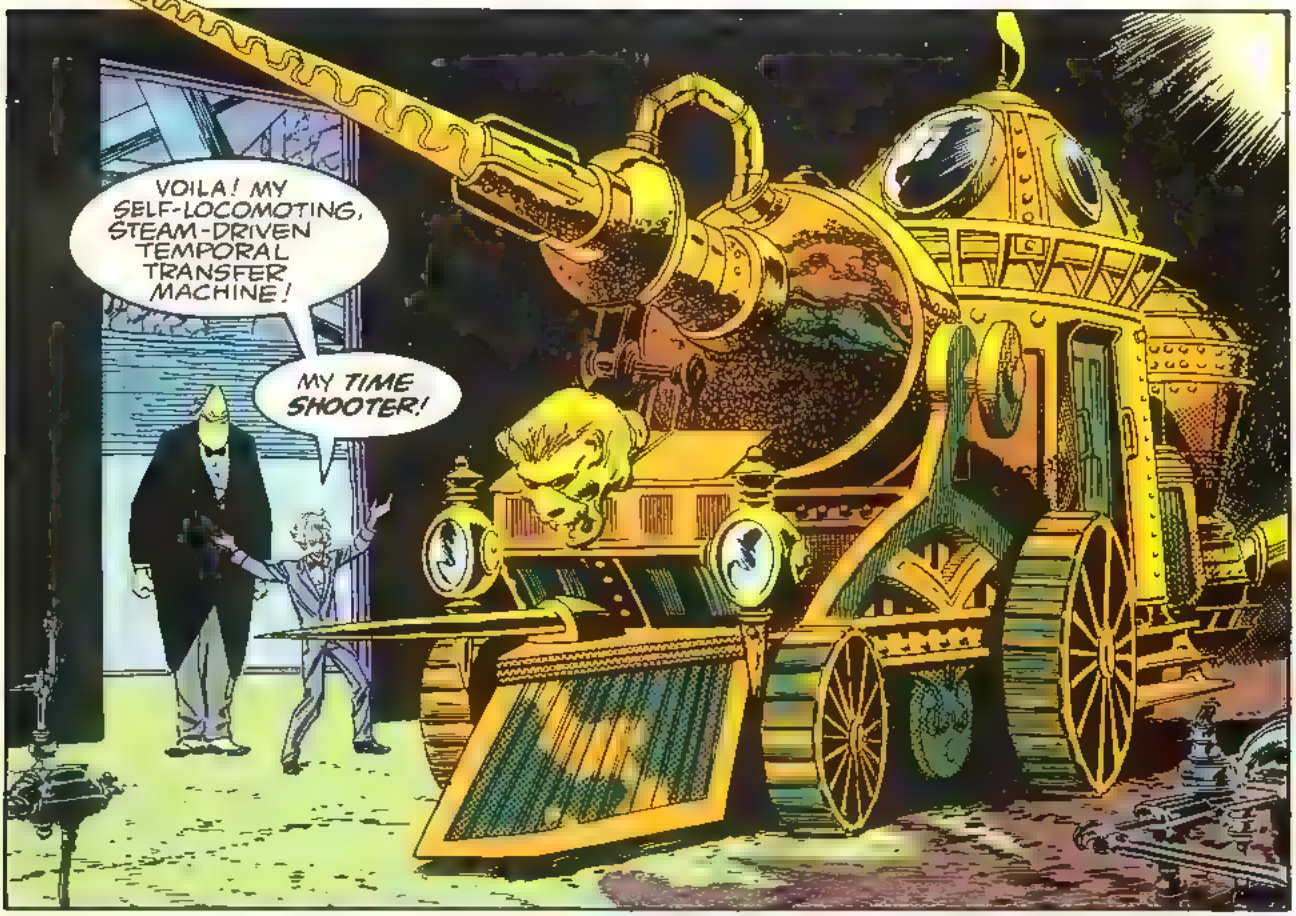

I-I'LL GET IT, SALEM. YOU JUST... STAY PUT.
UH, SHORE, MANDY.

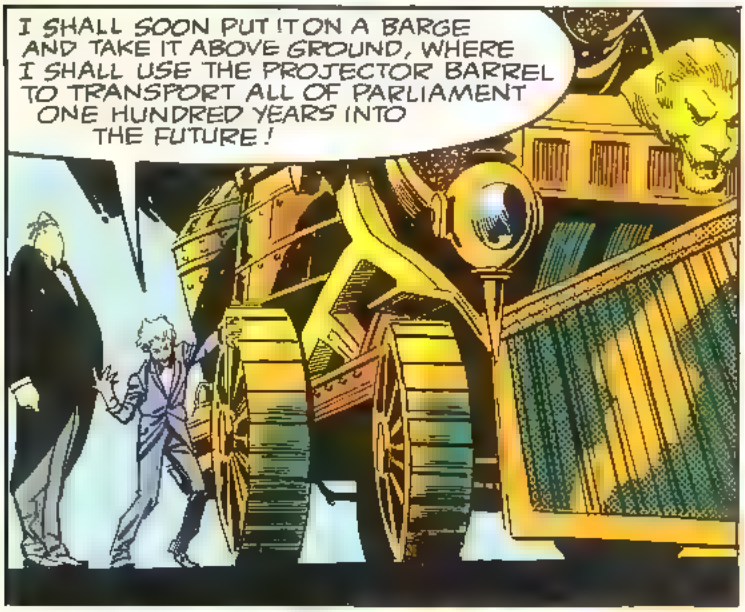
YES?
ARE YOU MISS FLYNN? MY NAME IS OLLIE, AN'--
--I GOT SOME-THIN' TA TELL YA...

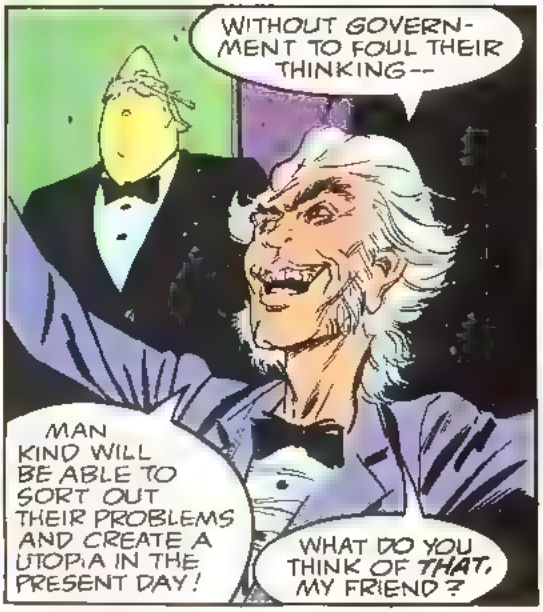
SUNSET LINGERS, A DAY REFUSING TO DIE. SOFT SHAFTS OF WANING LIGHT SPILL THROUGH COBBLED CRACKS IN THE STREETS ABOVE--
-ILLUMINATING A SCENE OF SURPRISING GENTILITY AND IDYLLIC GRACE CARVED CAREFULLY, INCONGRUOUSLY, INTO THE FILTH AND MIRE OF THE LONDON SEWER SYSTEM...
THERE!

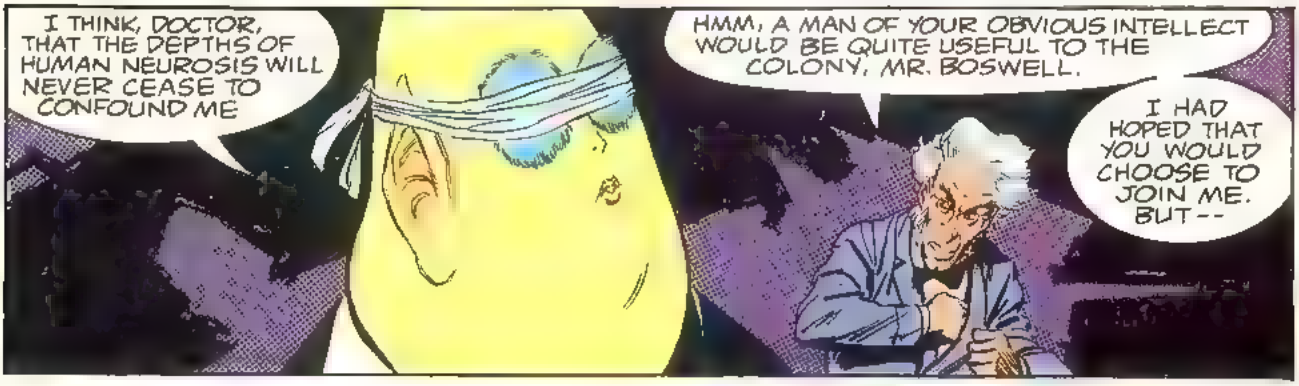

I TRUST THE BROMIDE SOLUTION DOESN'T STING TOO TERRIBLY?
OH, NO, DOCTOR PAINE--
--THE BLINDFOLD AND GAUZE ARE QUITE COMFORTABLE, THANK YOU.
THE PLEASURE IS MINE. BELIEVE ME, IT'S A JOY TO HAVE SOMEONE OF SUCH OBVIOUS INTELLIGENCE TO TALK TO, SOMEONE WHO CAN APPRECIATE MY WORK. AS A MATTER OF FACT...
...WOULD YOU CARE FOR A TOUR OF THE COMPOUND WHILE YOU RECUPERATE?
I'D BE DELIGHTED, DOCTOR
SPLENDID!
I CALL THIS REFUGE PAINEHAVEN. THERE IS NO HATRED HERE, NO ANGER, NO CRIME. IT IS A SMALL, BUT STERLING, EXAMPLE OF PHILOSOPHY TURNED REALITY.
FOR YOU SEE, I AM PROUD TO BE WHAT THE ACADEMIC PONTIFICATORS CALL A SCIENTIFIC UTOPIAN.

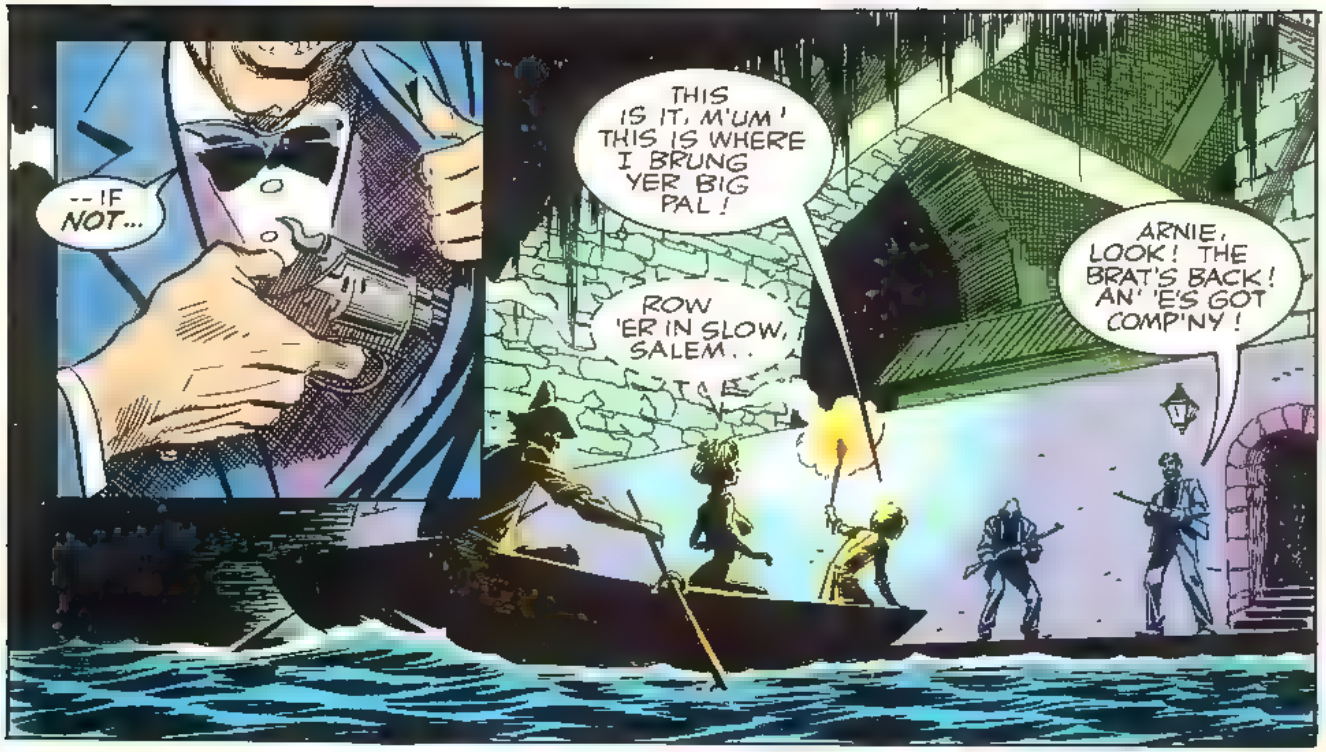
IT IS MY FIRM BELIEF THAT ALL OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS STEM FROM BUT A SINGLE SOURCE: GOVERNMENT!
PAINEHAVEN WAS FOUNDED TO SHOW THAT PEOPLE CAN LIVE IN PEACE AND HARMONY WITHOUT OFFICIAL MEDDLING
BUT EVEN THOUGH IT WORKS, I'M STILL BRANDED A RADICAL, A CRIMINAL, BY THE POMPOUS CRETINS IN PARLIAMENT!
HOWEVER, I RECENTLY GAINED A BREAKTHROUGH IN MY SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH! I DISCOVERED THAT BY PASSING ELECTRICAL CURRENT THROUGH PRECIOUS STONES, SO AS TO STIMULATE LIGHT PARTICLES--
--I COULD TRANSPORT PEOPLE FROM OUR TIME INTO THE FUTURE!
IT WAS MY PLAN TO SEND MY ENTIRE COLONY TO THE 20TH CENTURY, WHERE THERE WILL BE NO POVERTY, NO IGNORANCE, NO CURSED WAR.
BUT IT SEEMS THAT TIME, LIKE NATURE, ABHORS A VACUUM. FOR WHENEVER I SENT A VOLUNTEER FORWARD, A PERSON FROM THE FUTURE WAS SENT HERE IN HIS PLACE!
WHAT'S WORSE, THEY ALL ARRIVED DEAD!
I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT MY VOLUNTEERS FAIRED SIMILARLY ON THE OTHER END. I CONSIGNED THE CORPSES TO THE RIVER--
--AND FACED FAILURE WITH A STAUNCH DETERMINATION TO DEFEAT IT!
AS A RESULT, I'VE DEVISED AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN. HERE, I'LL SHOW YOU
ER, THAT IS, DESCRIBE FOR YOU..

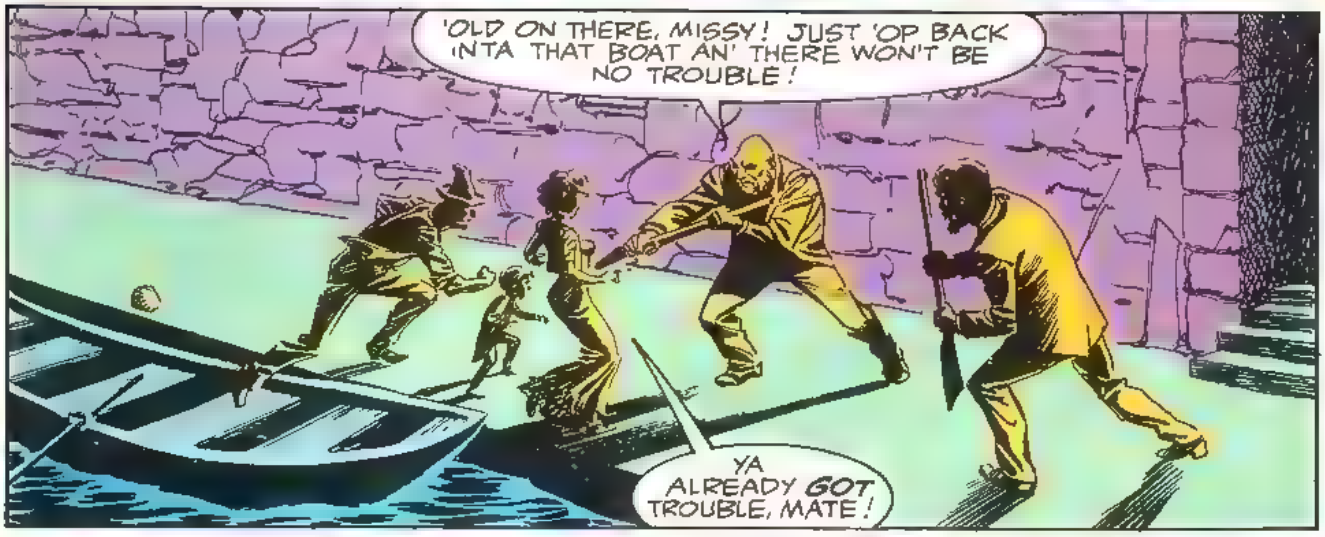

VOILA! MY SELF-LOCOMOTING, STEAM-DRIVEN TEMPORAL TRANSFER MACHINE!
MY TIME SHOOTER!


I SHALL SOON PUT IT ON A BARGE AND TAKE IT ABOVE GROUND, WHERE I SHALL USE THE PROJECTOR BARREL TO TRANSPORT ALL OF PARLIAMENT ONE HUNDRED YEARS INTO THE FUTURE!


WITHOUT GOVERNMENT TO FOUL THEIR THINKING--
MAN KIND WILL BE ABLE TO SORT OUT THEIR PROBLEMS AND CREATE A UTOPIA IN THE PRESENT DAY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT, MY FRIEND?


I THINK, DOCTOR, THAT THE DEPTHS OF HUMAN NEUROSIS WILL NEVER CEASE TO CONFOUND ME
HMM, A MAN OF YOUR OBVIOUS INTELLECT WOULD BE QUITE USEFUL TO THE COLONY, MR. BOSWELL.
I HAD HOPED THAT YOU WOULD CHOOSE TO JOIN ME. BUT--


--IF NOT...
THIS IS IT, M'UM! THIS IS WHERE I BRUNG YER BIG PAL!
ROW 'ER IN SLOW, SALEM..
ARNIE, LOOK! THE BRAT'S BACK! AN' 'E'S GOT COMP'NY!


'OLD ON THERE, MISSY! JUST 'OP BACK INTA THAT BOAT AN' THERE WON'T BE NO TROUBLE!
YA ALREADY GOT TROUBLE, MATE!

I'M FLYNN, FROM THE HOME OFFICE! WE'VE 'AD COMPLAINTS, AN' I GOT A RIGHT TA EXAMINE THE PREMISES!
YA GOT FIVE SECONDS TA LEAVE THE PREMISES, MISSY!
NO ONE GETS PAST US!

OH, YEAH? THEN WOT'S 'E DOIN' OVER THERE?
WHO--?

EEEEYOW!
BLAM!
POW!
QUICK THINKIN', MANDY! I'LL TAKE CARE O' THIS SIDE-WINDER!
CHUD!
GOSH, MR. HAWKSHAW! THAT WAS THE BEST LEFT HOOK I EVER SEEN!
WHY, THANK YUH, OLLIE! DID I EVER TELL YUH 'BOUT THE TIME I --
SAVE THE STORY-TELLIN', SALEM! WE GOTS TA 'URRY!
WE'VE LOST THE BLOODY ELEMENT O' SUR-PRISE!
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT ELEMENT WAS ALSO LOST IN THE INNER COMPOUND MERE SECONDS BEFORE, WHERE...
VERY WELL, MR. BOS - WELL, IF THAT IS YOUR FINAL DECISION, THEN I'M AFRAID I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO --
--EH? A GUN-SHOT FROM THE OUTER GATE! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
THAT MUST MEAN --
BLAM!

--YOU'RE A SPY!
KRAK!
WHERE .. WHERE DID HE GO?! BY JOVE, HE'S QUITE THE SPRINTER FOR A MAN HIS SIZE!
BUT THIS CHANGES EVERY-THING! MY TIME-TABLE WILL HAVE TO BE ALTERED!
DRASTIC MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN!
THE BROMIDE SOLUTION APPEARS TO HAVE EVAPORATED
OH, MY I WAS AFRAID OF THIS.
I STILL CAN'T SEE A THING...
WELCOME, STRANGERS! HAVE YOU COME TO JOIN THE FLOCK?
WE LOVE YOU!
WE LOVE EVERY-BODY!
GOR!

BE ONE WITH US!
JOIN US IN SERENITY!
I SWEAR IF I HAFTA TAKE MUCH MORE O' THIS TREACLE, I'M GONNA LOSE ME SUPPER!
WHO'S IN CHARGE 'ERE?
KARRASH!
BLIMEY! I AD TA ASK...!
SEEK SANCTUARY MY CHILDREN!
I SHALL DESTROY THE INTRUDERS!
THEY MUST BE SACRIFICED FOR PEACE!

SEE TA THE BOY, MANDY!
I'LL PLANT THAT SNAKE IN BOOT HILL SO FAST HE'LL--
BLAM
FROOP
LORDY!
SALEM! LOOK OUT--!
MUH STETSON! WH-WHU'D HE DO TA MUH STETSON?!
OLLIE-!
FROOP
I-I DON'T WANT TO KILL THEM! BUT THEY HAVE TO DIE!
TH-TH THE FUTURE DEMANDS IT!

SOME KINDA SMOKE COMIN' FROM THAT TUBE ON BACK!
MAYBE IF I CAN PLUG IT UP WITH TH S BUCKET O' PAVIN' ROCKS, I CAN SMOKE THE BUGGER OUT!
OLLIE'S AIM IS DEFT, HIS TOSS IS TRUE.
BUT THE "SMOKE" ISN'T SMOKE AT ALL.
IT'S STEAM.
STEAM THAT SUDDENLY HAS NO PLACE TO GO!
THE PRESSURE GUAGE! SPINN'NG LIKE A TOP! WH WHAT THE DEV L IS--
PABOOOOM!
A BLINK.
A FLASH.
AN ABRUPT WAKING.
THE DREAM ENDS..

WE'D BETTER SKEDADDLE! THAT EXPLOSION SET THE BUILDIN'S ON FIRE! THIS WHOLE PLACE IS COMIN' DOWN!
AN' DON'T WORRY NONE 'BOUT THE DOC'S FOLLOWERS! THERE'S PLENTY O' ROOM ON THE BARGE FER THE LOT OF 'EM!
BUT BOZZY! W-WOT ABOUT BOZZY! WE CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT--
HELLO, MANDY.
YOUR CONCERN IS MOST EN-DEARING.
BOZZ!
A-ARE YA OKAY? OLLIE SAID YA WAS STRUCK BLIND!
YES, THAT WAS RATHER DISCON-CERTING.
AND DOCTOR PAINE WAS SO KIND THAT I HADN'T THE HEART TO TELL HIM THAT HIS BROMIDE SOLUTION WAS MEANT TO BE SWALLOWED, NOT USED AS AN EYEWASH.
SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF LETTING MYSELF INTO THE DOCTOR'S SAFE, PREPARED ANOTHER SOLUTION FROM THE CHEMICALS THERE, AND DRANK IT.
I CAN SEE QUITE PROPERLY NOW.

SHORE WISH YUH'D DONE THAT SOONER. WE COULDA USED YUH IN THE FIGHT!
OH, I DON'T KNOW, SALEM. I'VE LEARNED QUITE A BIT LATELY ABOUT THE VALUE OF--
--IN-DEPEN-DENCE.
RIGHT-O, GUV!
OH, WHILE I WAS IN THE SAFE, MANDY, I FOUND QUITE A BIT OF THIS PAPER YOU SEEM TO ENJOY SO MUCH. WOULD YOU LIKE IT?
BLIMEY, WOT A WAD O' LOOT! MUST BE THE DOC'S TAKE FER STITCHIN' UP CROOKS!
'ERE YA GO, OLLIE, A FULL 'ALF! YA'VE EARNED IT!
MAYBE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER AGAIN SOME TIME, EH?
I'D LIKE THAT, M'UM!
THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION! WHEN WE GET HOME I'M GONNA FIX US ALL A HUMDINGER OF A VIC'TRY DINNER!
WE'LL START OFF WITH LAREDO LIP-SMACKERS! FIRST, YUH TAKE A HALF-POUND O' RIPE CHILI PEPPERS! THEN YUH SOAK 'EM IN TABASCO OVER-NIGHT, JUST TA GIVE 'EM A LITTLE FLAVOR, AN'--
OOPS.
NEXT ISSUE:
WERETOWN!

LONDON TIMES

Dear Archie,

The first issue of **The Bozz Chronicles** was refreshingly different. I can see that the alien detective and the down-to-Earth prostitute are going to form an intriguing partnership, which can be played for laughs or used for more serious and sometimes violent effect as you see fit. It's always good to see David Michelinie's name on the "writer" credit, and this is Bret's best art yet. He's obviously done much research into the London of a hundred years ago, with that lovely overhead opening view of the smoking chimneys, down to the details of *The London Times*. And he has indeed, as you say, produced an elegantly sexy Mandy, cockney accent and all, contrasting well with the upper class brogue adopted by Bozz, whose manner reminds one of Conan Doyle's great creation. Which brings me to suggest something like "Elementary Bozzness" for your lettercol heading. So until next time, best wishes . . .

Malcolm Bourne
Cricklewood, London
England

Being one of those unfortunate and deprived fellows who has, sadly, never set foot on British soil, I knew that I was taking a chance by setting a series of stories smack dab in the middle of an England I had only seen in movies and read about in books. While I was fairly confident that the majority of our American audience was probably as limited in their firsthand experience with "proper" English as I was (the aforementioned movies and an occasional British friend or correspondent), I was rather nervous about what our actual English readers might think of my well-meaning attempts to duplicate the subtleties of their native tongue. So, Malcom, you can imagine the great relief I felt when I received your letter. First off, it wasn't ticking. Secondly, your comments seem to indicate that I'm at least hitting close to the mark with my dialogue. Thanks. I needed that. As for your suggestion of a title for this very page, I'm afraid we had to pass on the quite clever "Elementary Bozzness." However, as you can see from the logo above, you actually touched on our final choice anyway. Let us know what you think of Bozz's continuing adventures, okay?

Dear Michelinie & Co.:

With the publication of **The Bozz Chronicles** I'm willing to forgive Marvel for ending **Timespirits**. Other than **Swamp Thing** and **Star Trek**, this book shows the best plotting, art, and consistently interesting characters in comics today. The period detail of the art is awesome. Bozz him(it?)self has a lot of potential. But with a name like that, how could you resist the temptation of naming his leading lady Harriet? I mean, lord above—"Bozzy And Harriet"?!

Keep up the fine work.

Kiril Kundarazieff
Pomona, CA

Being an incorrigible punster, Kiril, I can only guess that the reason I didn't name Mandy "Harriet" was because, well, I just didn't think of it! But thanks anyway for the kind words, particularly in regards to the period detail of the art. It is indeed awesome. I sometimes think that Bret must research every individual cobble on the streets and every speck of soot on the windows. Gor, wot a artist, eh?

Dear People,

Bozz Chronicles #1 was a great start. I have long admired the work of David Michelinie. And I have long awaited a series that was like a combination of Sherlock Holmes meeting H.G. Wells with a bit of Jules Verne thrown in, and mixed well with a touch of Dr. Who. I hope that after such a long wait for **Issue #1**, **Issue #2** will be even better.

Bret Blevins is one of the best new artists I have ever seen. His London looks better than all those I've seen in the Sherlock Holmes adaptations that have come down the pike over the years. I have been to London once, and can vouch for the feeling of reality in the art. I hope that Bret can keep up the quality of his work even though he's handling the complete art chores, both pencils and inks. His Bozz is a truly sympathetic alien, far removed from that muppet, E.T. I frankly feel that comic books make aliens more appealing than movies do. I hope that Bozz remains an innocent, and does not become more human.

Mandy is not a Watson-style character, but rather takes a more active role in the emotional side of the stories. Though I always felt that Watson was a far more interesting character than Holmes himself. I cannot imagine a more boring character than a perfect person who never makes mistakes. let's face it: that's why Superman is undergoing changes over at DC, and why Spider-Man is a much more popular character for Peter Parker not being perfect.

Stan Lee was right when he introduced the element of imperfect heroes, which turned comic book characters into more interesting people.

Interestingly enough, the most popular fantasy character on TV these days is also a weird alien with no really super powers, save those of his mind. I'm speaking, of course, of Dr. Who. I see a lot of the Doctor in Bozz and his companions. I understand that the book will be picking up more of a supporting cast. Personally, I always liked books that kept the additional cast small, so as not to dilute the main character's role in the limelight.

Frankly, I was surprised at the censorship in the book. We are given a clear shot of Mandy's "goods," but not of Bozz's. I am curious, as a person interested in alien physiology, about his private parts. I wonder if Bozz is male or female. Does his race even have sexes?

Did anyone besides Edison really have such an elaborate electrical set-up as shown in **Bozz #1**, at least in the 1800s where the series is set? Are we going to see any more examples of advanced science in the Victorian Age? The lack of microcircuitry makes such devices rather large, like the machines on that old TV show, *Wild Wild West*. I always liked the feel of that show, with its fantasy and heavy action, and I know you'll need to have action characters in **Bozz** to make up for the nonviolent personality of the title character.

Archie, congratulations on bringing out such a fine new series. Maybe it will make up for the demise of **Epic Illustrated**. I hope that somewhere, somehow, an **Epic Illustrated Special** will appear in the future. And I hope that new books coming out from the Epic line will keep up the high standards set by **Moonshadow** (one of my favorite books) and **Starstruck** (another favorite—Im sorry its run is being ended).

A suggestion: start some potentially controversial books with adult dialogue, stuff you can hear in any PG-13 or R-rated movie, which means about 80% of all the movies coming out of the major studios these days. Sex should not be a taboo subject in comics. Look at some of the really good stuff in **Heavy Metal** or the better undergrounds. Sex can bring out a lot of factors that make characters more human and less puritanical. It would also underscore the differences that exist between the **Epic**, **Marvel** and **Star** lines of books.

Good luck, David, on **Bozz** and **Thundercats**, and all the other projects you're into right now. And the same to everyone else at 387 Park.

Mark Ryan
St. Louis, MO

Thanks for your encouragement, enthusiasm and opinions, Mark. They were interesting and thoughtful. However, I'd like to clear up one thing right from the start. That is, the only censorship in ***Bozz Chronicles*** *is whatever personal sense of taste (good or bad) Bret Blevins and myself bring to the book. No one at* ***Epic*** *or* ***Marvel*** *has given us any limits at all as to what we can or cannot show, say or do. The fact that we haven't shown Bozz's genitalia is not evidence of censorship, nor of prudishness or sexism on our parts. We merely felt (and we didn't even discuss this beforehand; it just happened that way) that Bozz is more intriguing, especially in his effects on Mandy, without his "goods" being shown in graphic detail. If a story ever requires that such anatomy be presented, it will be. And by the way, Bozz's race does have sexes (at least two of them), of which Bozz is decidedly male. As for language, I've been given no restrictions on the use of profanity—it's just that there hasn't been any necessity for exceptionally foul language in the context of the stories so far. Whereas a costumed hero running through the streets of modern New York yelling "Blast!" seems a littly silly, to have an upper class Englishman in the 19th century use such relatively mild oaths seems quite natural. If the use of four-letter expletives fits into the flow of any particular tale, then such terminology will be employed. Oh, and one last thing: there* ***will*** *be* ***Epic Illustrated Specials*** *published by* ***Marvel*** *in the future. Frequency and dates of publication will depend on the availability of suitable material. Keep an eye out for them!*

Which brings me to the Grand Announcement section of this letter column: next issue . . . Bozz goes to England!!! Yeah, yeah, I *know* he's been there all along, but with *Issue #4* the *artwork* actually makes the transatlantic trip, as we feature special guest artist *John Ridgway*. John is a native Englishman who will be bringing his imaginative and highly-detailed style to *The Bozz Chronicles*, to allow Bret enough time to put his full efforts into the dramatic *2-part spectacular* that will appear in *Bozz #5 & 6*. We'd love to hear what you think of John's work—and of *Bozz* in general. Write to us at:

LONDON TIMES
c/o Epic Comics
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

We'll be glad you did.

—David Michelinie